

January 10, 1984

LB 623

Reference Committee and the Speaker wishes them to attend the meeting we will skip over LB 38 until they return and move on to LB 623, Government Committee, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 623 was introduced by the Government Committee. (Read.) The bill was referred to the committee on Government and Military Affairs and they report the bill back to General File with the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, my distinguished temporary Mr. President, the committee amendments essentially excise a number of provisions that were originally in the bill. Those of you familiar with election laws know that almost without fail after every major statewide election Allen Beermann provides us with a list of problem areas that are in need of legislation and corrective action. This is the biennial elections bill from the Secretary of State's office and while there were approximately twelve provisions originally the committee has cut down that to about six. We eliminated, and the committee amendments carry that elimination, for the power to consolidate voting precincts. We eliminated the provision which required that people write in a name on a ballot and also to place a cross or an X on the square left of that name for write-ins. We eliminated the provision that requires all candidates pursuing write-in campaigns to pay the statutory candidate's filing fee. We eliminated the provision that requires all candidates to use their names for filing purposes as they appear on their voter registration roster when they file for office. We eliminated the provision in nonpartisan races raising from 750 to 1,000 the number of signatures required on a petition circulated by a prospective candidate seeking to fill a vacancy on the ballot caused by the death of the announced candidate on the removal from the ballot of his or her name. We removed the population requirement which permits election workers in counties with more than 50,000 people who work more than twelve hours on election day to vote by absentee ballot, in other words, all counties can do so. We left in about six provisions and once these committee amendments are adopted I will be happy to describe those for you. I would